

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-36 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Please add claims 37-57 as follows:

Q² Sub c 17--37. An image processing apparatus comprising:
an engine controller for controlling an image forming device which forms an image on a sheet based on image data;
a printer controller for forming image data from printing data transferred from an external apparatus and transmitting the image data to said engine controller;
a reader controller for receiving image data from an original-reading device which outputs image data by reading an image of an original, and for transmitting the image data to said engine controller; and
transmitting means for selectively transmitting a state signal indicating a state of the image forming device to said printer controller or said reader controller in accordance with a content of the state signal.

Sub c 17 38. The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein said transmitting means selectively transmits the state signal to said printer controller or said reader controller in accordance

with a source of the image data transmitted to said engine controller.

Sub 17 39. The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the state signal indicates that there is a change in a state of the image forming device.

Sub 17 40. A controller for an image forming apparatus, comprising:

first reception means for receiving image data from an original-reading device which outputs image data by reading an image of an original;

second reception means for receiving image data from a printer controller which forms image data from printing data transferred from an external apparatus;

selection means for selecting one of the image data received from said first reception means and the image data received from said second reception means and transmitting the selected image data to an engine controller which controls an image forming device for forming an image on a sheet based on image data; and

transmitting means for selectively transmitting a state signal indicating a state of the image forming device to

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A² ^{or} the original-reading device, printer controller in accordance with a content of the state signal.

Subc 17 41. The controller according to claim 40, wherein said transmitting means selectively transmits the state signal to the original-reading device or the printer controller in accordance with a source of the image data transmitted to the engine controller.

Subc 17 42. The controller according to claim 40, wherein the state signal indicates that there is a change in a state of the image forming device.

Subc 17 43. A control method for an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving image data from an original-reading device which outputs image data by reading an image of an original;

a second receiving step of receiving image data from a printer controller which forms image data from printing data transferred from an external apparatus;

a selecting step of selecting one of the image data received from the original-reading device and the image data

received from the printer controller and transmitting the selected image data to an engine controller which controls an image forming device for forming an image on a sheet based on image data; and

a² a transmitting step of selectively transmitting a state signal indicating a state of the image forming device to the original-reading device^{or} printer controller in accordance with a content of the state signal.

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Sub c 17 44. The method according to claim 43, wherein the state signal is selectively transmitted to the original-reading device or the printer controller in accordance with a source of the image data transmitted to the engine controller.

Sub c 17 45. The method according to claim 43, wherein the state signal indicates that there is a change in a state of the image forming device.

Sub c 17 46. An image processing apparatus comprising:
an engine controller for controlling an image forming device which forms an image on a sheet based on image data;
a printer controller for forming image data from printing data transferred from an external apparatus, for

transmitting the image data to said engine controller, and for transmitting a command for setting an operation of said engine controller to said engine controller;

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a reader controller for receiving image data from an original-reading device which outputs image data by reading an image of an original, and for transmitting the image data to said engine controller; and

holding means for holding the command transmitted from said printer controller when said reader controller transmits the image data to said engine controller, and transmitting the held command to said engine controller after said reader controller completes transmitting the image data to said engine controller.

Sub c 17 47. The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said holding means holds the command which causes a change in a load of the image forming device.

Sub c 17 48. A controller for an image forming apparatus, comprising:

first reception means for receiving image data from an original-reading device which outputs image data by reading an image of an original;

second reception means for receiving image data and a command for setting an operation from a printer controller which forms image data from printing data transferred from an external apparatus;

selection means for selecting one of the image data received from said first reception means and the image data received from said second reception means and transmitting the selected image data to an engine controller which controls an image forming device for forming an image on a sheet based on image data; and

holding means for holding the command received from said second reception means when the image data received from said first reception means is transmitted to said engine controller, and transmitting the held command to said engine controller after the completion of the transmitting of the image data received from said first reception means to said engine controller.

5ub c 17 49. The apparatus according to claim 47, wherein said holding means holds the command which causes a change in a load of the image forming device.

Subc 17 50. A method of controlling an image forming apparatus, by controlling a reader controller which controls an original-reading device which outputs image data by reading an image of an original, said method comprising the steps of:

a first receiving step of receiving image data from the original-reading device;

a second reception step of receiving image data and a command for setting an operation from a printer controller which forms image data from printing data transferred from an external apparatus;

a selecting step of selecting one of the image data received from the original-reading device and the image data received from the printer controller and transmitting the selected image data to an engine controller which controls an image forming mechanism for forming an image on a sheet based on image data;

a holding step of holding the command received from the printer controller when the image data received from the original-reading device is transmitted to said engine controller; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the held command to said engine controller after the completion of the

transmitting of the image data received from the original-reading device to the engine controller.

Q² SUB C 17 51. The method according to claim 50, wherein the command which is held in said holding step causes a change in a load of the image forming device.

52. An image processing apparatus comprising:
an engine controller for controlling an image forming device which forms an image on a sheet based on image data, and for outputting a data request signal;

a printer controller for forming image data from printing data transferred from an external apparatus and transmitting the image data to said engine controller in response to the data request signal from said engine controller;

a reader controller for receiving image data from an original-reading device which outputs image data by reading an image of an original in response to the data request signal from said engine controller, and for transmitting the image data to said engine controller; and

transmitting means for selectively transmitting the data request signal to said printer controller or said reader

controller in accordance with a source of the image data to be transmitted to said engine controller.

Q^v sub c 17 53. The apparatus according to claim 52, wherein when there is a request to transmit the image data from the original-reading device to said engine controller while the image data from said printer controller is being transmitted to said engine controller, said transmitting means interrupts the transmission of the data request signal to said printer controller and transmits the data request signal to said reader controller.

sub c 17 54. A reader controller for controlling an image forming apparatus, by controlling an original-reading device which outputs image data by reading an image of an original in response to a data request signal, said reader controller comprising:

first reception means for receiving image data from the original-reading device;

second reception means for receiving image data from a printer controller which forms image data from printing data transferred from an external apparatus and outputs the image data in response to a data request signal;

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selection means for selecting one of the image data received from said first reception means and the image data received from said second reception means and transmitting the selected image data to an engine controller which controls an image forming device for forming an image on a sheet based on image data and outputs the data request signal; and

transmitting means for selectively transmitting the data request signal output from the engine controller to the original-reading device or said printer controller in accordance with a source of the image data to be transmitted to the engine controller.

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Sub c17 55. The apparatus according to claim 54, wherein when there is a request to transmit the image data from the original-reading device to the engine controller while the image data from the printer controller is being transmitted to the engine controller, said transmitting means interrupts the transmission of the data request signal to the printer controller and transmits the data request signal to the original-reading device.

Sub c17 56. A control method for an image forming apparatus, comprising:

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a first receiving step of receiving image data from an original-reading device which outputs image data by reading an image of an original in response to a data request signal;

a second receiving step of receiving image data from a printer controller which forms image data from printing data transferred from an external apparatus and outputs the image data in response to a data request signal;

a selecting step of selecting one of the image data received from the original-reading device and the image data received from the printer controller and transmitting the selected image data to an engine controller which controls an image forming device for forming an image on a sheet based on image data and outputs the data request signal; and

a transmitting step of selectively transmitting the data request signal output from the engine controller to the original-reading device or the printer controller in accordance with a source of the image data to be transmitted to the engine controller.

Sub c 17 57. The method according to claim 56, wherein when there is a request to transmit the image data from the original-reading device to the engine controller while the image data from the printer controller is being transmitted to the engine